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Third draft, second discussion for Minden's budget

by SUE TIFFIN
Editor

Minden Hills councillors returned to the deliberation table last week to talk about the 2022 budget, the first public budget discussion since last October.

Since December, staff have been working on decreasing the tax levy from \$10,541,870, representing an increase of \$1,328,540 or 14.4 per cent, and presented a third version of the draft budget on March 24 with a \$9,581,235 levy, or 4.0 per cent increase.

CAO/clerk Trisha McKibbin presented the draft budget alongside Oscar Poloni of KPMG, the township's auditor. Additionally, Greg Bedard attended the virtual meeting, having joined the township in the role of director of finance four days prior. McKibbin noted council did not have an opportunity to discuss the second draft of the budget package at a Dec. 9 meeting, but that its content was included within the agenda at that time and also within the updated package presented last week.

"You can see we had some pressure points on that budget including new staff positions,

see NEXT page 3



Bump, set, spike

Archie Stouffer Elementary School Grade 8 volleyball player Maddy Walker bumps a ball during a tournament at the Minden elementary school on Thursday, March 24. See more photos on page 13. /DARREN LUM Staff

Arena snack bar to cost nearly \$300,000

by SUE TIFFIN
Editor

The cost to add a snack bar at Minden's arena has, in the words of community services director Craig Belfry, "ballooned" to \$293,000 excluding HST and contingency.

Previously, council had approved additional expenses for the township's arena project, including construction costs for a snack bar which were not captured under the arena's original budget. The budget for its design was \$13,535, plus HST, the remainder of that to be spent on electrical and mechanical work, millwork, doorways and equipment.

"As staff have moved through the process to design the space with Parkin, certain design items were seen as required for the space," said Belfry. "These include but are not limited to doors and frames; millwork; appliances; HVAC; electrical systems; security grill; concrete work and general conditions."

Of the total amount, the electrical component, appliances and fixtures and general conditions will cost just under \$200,000.

"The electrical component is high due to the fact that no local companies could be secured to provide pricing as their manpower was limited, and have already committed to ongoing field activities," said Belfry. Equipment

see COUNCILLORS page 2

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Councillors agree arena food booth is needed

from page 1

suppliers have stated that lack of supply has inflated costs, he said.

“Staff could trim back some of the equipment in the proposal, and expect a possible slight decrease in the electrical work, if performed by a local company, but the project would still be substantially over the budgeted amount of \$60,000,” he said.

For a snack bar to be operational for the 2022/2023 season, Belfry said an additional \$271,518 in funding is required, which includes a 10 per cent contingency of \$24,683.

Belfry said staff has looked at alternate options, including minor renovations to the area for use by vending machines; the use of warming carts by the vendor with food preparation in the community centre kitchen or minor renovations to repurpose the space for storage or as a meeting room.

The use of warming carts would have an impact on rentals and revenue, said Belfry, and the current kitchen is not set up for the use of oil-based cooking.

“Why on earth was this not included in the original build?” asked Deputy Mayor Lisa Schell.

She asked about the possibility of a newer style air fryer, which might cost more up front, she said, but would reduce costs in other ways.

Belfry said there isn’t a hood in the kitchen.

“In certain areas, the ceiling’s too low for the building code so we can’t get one in, so we had to look at alternatives of fryer systems,” he said. A deep fryer shown in a design illustration is a hoodless option.

Councillor Ron Nesbitt asked if, as council had discussed in previous meetings, an external food supplier like Subway could come in.

Belfry reminded council that through the tenancy agree-

ment with the Haliburton County Huskies, they were awarded operations of the food booth as a service to the community, with all revenue from the operations of food booth profits going to the team.

“Council had agreed to help support the team coming in, that that was one of the reasons, that they were just getting up and going and this would be another revenue source for them to help generate more in the community for them and for the municipality,” he said.

“Don’t we already own some of these appliances from the old snack bar?” asked Councillor Jean Neville. “Where is that equipment, because why are we buying all new stuff if we already have some of this?”

Belfry said that equipment is gone.

“Everything’s gone from the demolition, that I’ve seen at least,” he said.

“I have been to several games there and there is a really big need for a concession stand,” said Neville.

She asked if the food booth would be open all day, and Belfry said hours of operation would be up to the Huskies, who had said it wouldn’t only be open during Huskies games. He said at arenas he’s managed, he’s only seen food booths open when it’s economically viable, at busiest times.

Councillor Pam Sayne said she was “a little bit speechless” about the update.

“I’m so not pleased with the fact that we’re investing \$300,000 into another part of our building that we’re giving away to one entity ... We’ve got to have some more give and take here, for the community and what the community needs are in this building, and make the community as much a priority as our team,” she said.

Neville said in the past, the tender for operation of the food booth had been put out several times with no interest, which Sayne said people had told her was a result of restrictive pa-

rameters of the tender.

Councillor Bob Carter said looking at the amount amortized over 25 years resulted in a cost of about \$12,000 a year.

“I think \$12,000 a year invested in the snack bar is something that is well worth having for the population and the people who use this facility,” he said. “I don’t like it, I wish it was less, I wish it was already there, but that’s not the case, we’re retrofitting. The \$12,000 a year is a good investment.”

Devolin noted the team had also helped with what he called leasehold agreements in excess of \$200,000. Belfry said they’ve installed rail systems in the stands, as well as upgraded the backroom used by players.

As council was discussing how to finance the project, Oscar Poloni, the township’s auditor, said a capital reserve for the arena existed, and was projected to be roughly \$470,000 as of Dec. 31, 2021 so the township could potentially fund the snack bar out of reserves.

Belfry said the reserve has been used in the past for vehicles, and using it to cover the cost of the snack bar would drain it, adding, “that’s something we’ll have to look at.”

Carter suggested that finance do an analysis and come back to council with a best recommendation for a financing plan. Council opted to add \$300,000 to the capital budget to fund the snack bar.

McDonald Brothers and Parkin Architects Limited were, in a joint bid, the sole bidders on the arena project. The arena project’s initial budget was approximately \$12.5 million, with McDonald Brothers later coming to council requesting and receiving an additional \$250,000, bringing its total base budget to \$12.75 million and a final report showing the costs totalled \$13.3 million. The facility includes an NHL-sized ice rink, six change rooms, office space for community services staff, a multipurpose gymnasium, fitness room and elevated walking track.

Health unit reports first influenza case in two years

by SUE TIFFIN
Editor

The following are brief reports from a Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District health unit press conference held virtually on March 23 with medical officer of health Dr. Natalie Bocking and a press release issued March 24.

The first lab-confirmed case of influenza in the region in the past two years was reported last week, after no flu activity was reported in the HKPRD region during the 2020-2021 influenza season.

“Typically, we have many more influenza cases in our region much earlier in the flu season, but this is something else that the pandemic has turned upside down,” said Bocking in a press release. “Given the prevalence of COVID-19, especially the highly-infectious Omicron variant, it’s little wonder that influenza has been crowded out over the past two winters.”

Public health precautions including masking, distancing, and limits on gathering to stop the spread of COVID-19 have also helped to limit the spread of other respiratory illnesses like influenza, she said.

With influenza now circulating in the region and most COVID-19 restrictions lifted, the health unit encouraged area residents to keep up their efforts to stop the spread of illness.

Minden vaccine clinic closes

The Minden vaccine clinic closed on March 24, after 70 clinic days. The mass immunization site opened on April 7 last year and more than 12,000 people – up to 500 a day at

times - attended at the S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena at first, and then the community centre. In total, more than 21,230 doses of vaccine were administered by health unit staff with support from more than 200 volunteers, led by the Rotary Club of Minden.

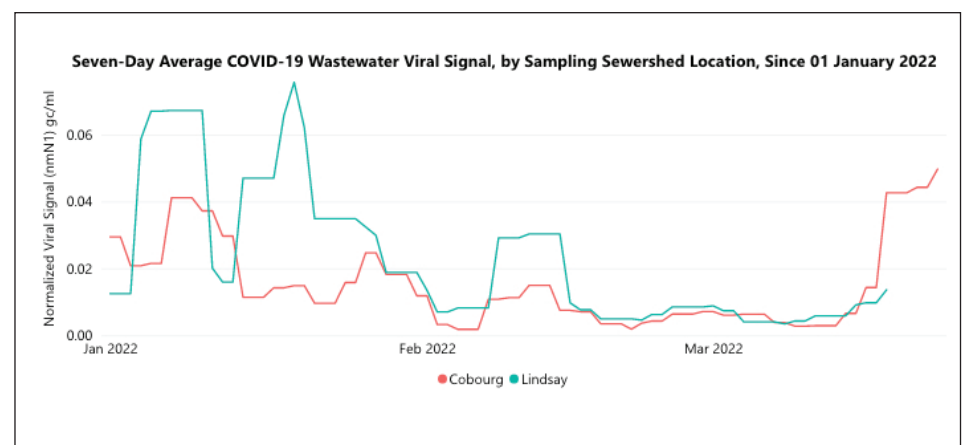
“A very tremendous thank you to all of the partners who have made those mass immunization clinics so effective,” said Bocking. She thanked the numerous volunteers and municipalities who have supported the clinics. Vaccinations are still available at mobile clinics, pharmacies and from primary care teams as well as at school-based clinics.

Slight increases in COVID activity

A number of indicators are showing COVID-19 stability, said Bocking, with about 15 to 20 new lab-confirmed cases each day at the health unit. Bocking said those cases were “the tip of the iceberg,” as PCR testing is limited. At the time of the briefing there were two outbreaks ongoing at a group home and correctional centre, and there had been six hospitalizations over the past 14 days.

“So those three indicators are staying stable over the past two weeks,” said Bocking. “We do however have two indicators that are demonstrating a slight increase in activity.”

Bocking said the test positivity had increased very slightly and was close to 10 per cent last week, compared to eight per cent but not as high as 20 per cent that had been seen. The health unit’s wastewater surveillance had indicated increased viral activity in sewersheds in Lindsay and Cobourg, though not as high as during the Omicron wave. Bocking said there is a four to five day lag from when samples are taken and results are



Info from the Ontario Wastewater Surveillance Initiative Data and Visualization Hub shows the seven-day average COVID-19 wastewater viral signal, by sampling sewershed locations in Cobourg and Lindsay, since Jan. 1 of this year. The wastewater program analyses virus shedding among residents to estimate the burden of COVID-19 in the community. Given the changes in eligibility for testing, the health unit said this surveillance serves as a secondary indicator for retrospective and current COVID-19 prevalence in the community./From www.hkpr.on.ca

reported in the provincial database.

The slight upticks are similar to what is being seen elsewhere in the province and aren’t surprising given measures having been lifted in the province, said Bocking.

Bocking said the BA.2 variant is slowly becoming the dominant variant in Ontario. Very few cases in the HKPR region have been identified as the BA.2 variant, she said. The BA.2 variant is more transmissible than the Omicron variant but like the Omicron variant is resulting in less severe outcomes, said Bocking.

Boosters still recommended

Regarding booster doses, of those aged 70

and older, 86 per cent have received their booster dose, while of those 50 and older, 73.6 per cent have received their third dose of vaccine and of those 18 and older, 60.8 per cent have had their booster.

“I’ve [been asked] some questions about whether or not a booster dose is still worth it at this time, people feel that the Omicron wave is over, public health restrictions have lifted, mandates for masking and vaccination have lifted so why the need for a booster dose?” said Bocking. She still encourages boosters as Omicron is still circulating, and there will be more infections with the BA.2 variant circulating, as well as it being unclear what will happen next with COVID-19 spread in terms of other variants.

Next draft budget meeting set for April

from page 1

increases in salary and hours,” she said, noting new positions included in the budget – one in administration, one in finance – a deputy treasurer position – and positions in the building and bylaw planning department at a cost of \$246,364. Other pressures in the budget, said McKibbin, include increases in salaries and hours at a cost of \$303,516. Special projects, or consultants, for a pay equity review, short-term rental review, recruitment, planning consultants and landfill consultants were included at \$225,650. Capital funded through taxation was \$310,185 and includes IT, fire department turnout gear, property projects such as painting at the cultural centre. Road debenture costs – the Scotch Line transfer station, resurfacing projects, culverts and drainage improvements were included at \$221,730.

McKibbin said strategies considered to reduce the overall increase in the municipal levy include adjusting the budget by \$182,330 to reflect timing of hiring versus full year salary for new positions – or proration of salaries; use of \$220,000 of reserves for one-time special project operating costs; increased utilization of reserves of \$275,000 for tax-funded capital projects and adjustment of operating costs and revenues to reflect expected levels in 2022.

She said the continued ability to draw down on reserves and utilize debenture financing is limited, and cost pressures will continue to challenge the municipality into future years.

“The proposed 2022 budget attempts to balance affordability with the township’s needs in a sustainable manner,” said McKibbin in her report to council, noting numerous times that the proposed 2022 budget is “transitional in nature.”

“This is to move us forward in 2022, recognizing that we have a lot of work to do in 2022, but we’re looking at using some reserve accounts and debenture for financing,” she said. “We’re also aware of cost pressures – we know that expenses are going up, we know we are increasing some of the programming we’re doing, we have a brand new building that will be fully operational ... recognizing all of that and the pressures that we’re under, we know that in 2022 really we

need to be focusing on four areas and having some really in-depth conversations and planning.”

Those four areas, she said, are a service delivery review; asset management planning; reserve and reserve fund strategy and a user fee analysis.

“These are four major items we should be talking about every year, and should be part of our budgeting process as we move forward,” she said.

Councillor Bob Carter, speaking to McKibbin’s report, said that while he recognizes the budget is a transition budget, that transition is more internal “and doesn’t mean an awful lot to the taxpayers.” While he agreed with a need to discuss reserves going forward, he questioned the way the budget was presented.

“I recognize what you have done here to come up to the four per cent, is, fine, but I think that’s a bit of an artificial and totally arbitrary number,” said Carter. “One of the things you don’t really mention in here is that you’re using borrowing to get to that number. There’s some things that you’ve deemed to be capital projects that should be debentured, and there’s a debate on whether they should

be debentured or whether they should be handled out of our operating budgets.”

He said the budget as presented is based on projects and decisions that have not yet been approved.

“Until we get through all of that, it’s really difficult to say what this number really, really is,” he said, saying that he wants to know before making decisions what the effect will be next year as a result of that decision.

Councillor Jennifer Hughey said she was impressed with the number being presented, and also wanted to know what effect decisions would have, up until 2025.

Councillor Pam Sayne said she liked the new presentation of the budget, noting it’s available online for the public to access, thanking those who had worked on it.

Mayor Brent Devolin thanked staff and the KPMG team.

“Obviously the timing, basically since the beginning of the year being without a director of finance, to pull this off is a minor miracle, to put it lightly,” said Devolin. He acknowledged the turnover and challenges with staff retention the township had faced.

“I expect that at whatever point we approve our 2022 budget ... the good work toward

next year’s budget with some longer term elements, i.e. road needs study, asset management, all of those elements, that this council and staff can work toward the end of our term to set the table so that a lot of that information is available and a bunch of the work is done for the council that will follow us.”

Minden had started deliberating early compared to prior years, in October rather than December, which McKibbin said was so that council could have the same number of meetings to review and discuss the budget as in the past, in order to approve the budget during the month of January. The first draft of the budget showed a 14.5 per cent increase over the 2021 levy, with that number historically decreasing through discussion and deliberation.

Last year Minden’s budget was passed in March after five rounds of talks, the levy increase being 3.75 per cent over the 2020 budget, equating to a tax rate increase of 3.08 per cent for residents.

The county as well as the other three lower-tier municipalities passed their 2022 budgets this month. The next budget meeting in Minden Hills is scheduled for Wednesday, April 20 at 9 a.m.



A job well done

Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District health unit staff, and Rotary Club of Minden vaccine clinic volunteers joined to acknowledge the last day of Minden's mass vaccination clinic on March 24 - a few days short of one year since it opened on April 7, 2021. COVID-19 vaccines will still be available at pop-up sites, through some healthcare teams and at school clinics (with parental permission). /SUE TIFFIN Staff

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(VIRTUAL) COUNCIL MEETINGS

Council and Closed Session meetings are currently being conducted virtually via web conference meetings, until further notice. Meetings begin at 9:00 AM unless otherwise noted. The schedule of upcoming meetings are:

March 31 – Regular Council Meeting
April 14 – Regular Council Meeting

Members of the Public are invited to observe Council proceedings by joining a live-stream link available on the township website at www.mindenhills.ca/council/ or by using the direct link provided in the notice. Meeting agendas are not displayed during the meeting, please download by visiting our website at www.mindenhills.ca/council/. Please note the live-stream link provided for each meeting will only be activated while Council is in session.

DAYTIME BURNING REMINDER

Reminder that you will need a burn permit for daytime burning, 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM, from April 1st to October 31st. A burn permit is issued for the season at a cost of \$50.00. For more information contact the Fire Department at 705-286-1202.

WASTE REDUCTION TIP

Spring is around the corner! If you are cleaning out your closet, you can drop off textiles (in good and poor condition) in the donation bin at Scotch Line Landfill.

THE DAWSON HAMILTON MEMORIAL RINK

The Dawson Hamilton Memorial Rink has now closed for the season. We hope you had an opportunity to enjoy the outdoor rink throughout the winter.

SPRING LOAD RESTRICTIONS (HALF LOADS) IN EFFECT

Half Load weight restrictions are placed on roadways and posted each year in the spring for approximately 1-2 months. Persons contravening this regulation will be prosecuted under Section 122 of The Highway Traffic Act. Please watch for and obey posted signage.

FIREWORKS PERMIT REMINDER

Reminder that the discharging of fireworks requires a permit within the Township of Minden Hills. Contact the Fire Department for a fireworks permit prior to the ignition of fireworks at 705-286-1202.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

We are currently recruiting for the following positions within the Township:

- Community Services Casual Operator
- Summer Students in Parks
- Summer Students at the Minden Hills Cultural Centre
- Student Recreation Attendant
- Building Inspector/MLEO

Please email sprentice@mindenhills.ca or visit www.mindenhills.ca/employment-opportunities/ for more information.

HHHS planning around physician and nurse shortage

by **SUE TIFFIN**
Editor

The following are brief reports of items discussed during a March 24 virtual meeting of the Haliburton Highlands Health Services board.

HHHS has continued to face nursing and physician staff shortages in the Haliburton emergency department.

“HHHS has been able to keep the emergency departments open and operating thanks to the continued dedication and commitment shown by our acute care teams. Whether it has been coming in early for shifts, staying late, picking up extra shifts and hours, or adapting their schedules to cover gaps – they have been resolute,” said Carolyn Plummer, CEO and president.

HHHS is relying on agency nursing staff and the Health Force Ontario and ED Locum program that provides support for hospitals across the province facing physician shortages to fill gaps, said Plummer, noting “the demand for coverage from that program has pretty much doubled in the past year and because of that there is ongoing concern that the program will not necessarily be able to cover or meet all of the demands, so we are trying to prepare for that, certainly trying to prevent it from happening but preparing for a crisis situation in which we encounter a shift where we may not have a physician or may not be able to fill a physician’s shift.”

Plummer said HHHS has developed a protocol to help guide what would happen in case of a temporary closure. She said there is hope that doesn’t happen and that HHHS is taking steps to prevent it, but there could be unforeseen circumstances in which coverage can’t happen and the emergency

department doors need to be closed for a short period of time.

Retention incentive advocacy

Plummer spoke to the provincial government’s March 7 announcement that it will spend \$763 million to provide nurses with a \$5,000 lump sum retention incentive.

“While we are grateful for this measure that recognizes the crucial importance of nursing staff to our operations and the healthcare system as a whole, HHHS also appreciates the Ontario Hospital Association’s request that the province recognize the contributions of all healthcare workers by expanding the scope of the payments,” said Plummer. “HHHS values all members of our team, and we would like to be able to support and retain them.”

‘Cautious approach’ in lifting restrictions

Plummer said HHHS is maintaining all COVID-19-related enhanced infection prevention measures including screening for symptoms and masking until the expiry of all remaining measures, directives and orders for high-risk settings on April 27. A vaccination policy is still in place for all staff, though a directive for staff to receive a third, or booster, dose of vaccine has been removed as of March 14 following the lifting of a directive from the Ministry of Long-Term Care.

Plummer said HHHS was keeping an eye on the impact on community spread of COVID-19 after provincial restrictions were lifted, as well as the impact of March Break and increased travel.

“We want to give sufficient time to see the effects of those two things before we make a decision to begin lifting any

restrictions or changes of some of the protocols we have in place,” she said.

Testing for the Community Assessment Centre has moved from the trailer in the parking lot of the Haliburton Family Medical Centre to the centre itself as of March 28.

Anyone who is immunocompromised OR unvaccinated and pregnant OR unvaccinated and 50 years of age or older should contact the assessment centre as soon as they start to feel unwell with COVID or cold-and-flu-like symptoms. The centre can be reached at 705-457-1212.

HHHS plans for balanced finances

While the HHHS finance committee had previously been concerned about cash flow as funds were not coming through in the way of COVID-19 reimbursement from the government, Irene O’Dell, speaking for the finance committee, said HHHS had at this point received all eligible reimbursements up to Sept. 2021.

“We’re no longer in a cash flow shortage situation as we were previously,” she said.

HHHS is continuing to run an operational deficit, and as of Jan. 31 that deficit was \$536,000, half of which O’Dell said was related to lost revenues due to COVID, the remaining due to increased compensation, services and inflationary pressures for food and utilities.

“HHHS advocacy for one-time funding to support these pressures has resulted in receipt of a letter from Ontario Health for one-time funding to address current year operating pressures,” said Plummer. “This timely funding presents a strong opportunity for HHHS to close the fiscal year in a balanced operating position.”

County council plans May 11 return to in-person meetings

by **SUE TIFFIN**
Editor

The following are brief reports of items discussed during a March 23 committee of the whole meeting and recommended to be approved by county council.

With all provincial restrictions related to COVID-19 precautions ending by April 27, councillors are readying themselves to meet again.

Minden Hills Mayor Brent Devolin was first to express his opinion about when county council should meet again face-to-face – the first time since the COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 – noting he was ready to meet as soon as possible, especially once all conditions were removed.

“In my mind, there’s no reason after that date to do anything but meet in person,” he said.

Dysart et al Mayor Andrea Roberts said that something to consider might be how often council meets, suggesting one of the two monthly meetings, while committees continue to meet virtually via Zoom, ensuring a reduction in mileage costs and that those outside of Haliburton County seasonally or for other reasons could still participate.

“Just because we can meet doesn’t mean we should be meeting for every single meeting,” she said.

County Warden and Algonquin Highlands Deputy Mayor Liz Danielsen acknowledged that “there remains sensitivities with people,” that after a lengthy time of distancing and wearing masks, “whether we like it or not, there are people that need a bit of time to adjust.”

Highlands East Councillor Cec Ryall said he disagreed with Devolin, and said the uptick in provincial numbers that might be related to restrictions lifting were of concern to him. He said there’s still a large percentage of people wearing masks, though they’re no longer mandated, and he is one of them. If council was to meet in April, he said he would meet via Zoom if possible or not attend – but that he was more comfortable meeting in May.

Algonquin Highlands Mayor Carol Moffatt said that municipality’s council was meeting in person on April 7, with staff attending virtually from their offices in the building via Zoom.

She said that while Zoom was initially new and overwhelming, she thought now “it’s part of the way we do business.”

Eventually, some people might be attending meetings from their house in Florida, she suggested, noting she personally didn’t support that but council had initially decided

Zooming in to meetings would be possible in extraordinary circumstances.

Danielsen was in agreement that committees, especially those meeting at night or in poor weather, might still be able to meet virtually.

“I personally have a little bit of an issue of a blended solution, some meeting virtually, some not, but that’s just my own thoughts,” she said.

Minden Hills Deputy Mayor Lisa Schell said the situation was tricky with some people being more comfortable than others, but referred to the mask mandate ending at schools last week in which some kids want to wear masks and some won’t want to.

“If Councillor Ryall wants to wear a mask or socially distance himself at the meeting, I wouldn’t take offence to it, I would have no problem,” she said. “I would have a problem with someone Zooming in unless they had a broken leg, or a really good legitimate reason.”

She said that with the province lifting restrictions, she thought council should be doing the same.

“When it comes to council meetings, I think it’s time we get back together and keep moving forward and setting an example for the community,” she said.

Highlands East Mayor Dave Burton said that municipality was discussing the possibility of meeting in-person for council, with staff reports and public delegations occurring via Zoom, for about six more months.

Ryall said he didn’t want people to think he didn’t want to meet in person.

“That’s not what I said at all,” he said, reiterating he was comfortable meeting in May.

“I think in May we’ll have a better understanding,” he said. “I’m merely saying that jumping the gun, in my mind, is not the right thing to do.”

He said if restrictions were lifted at the end of April, the county’s first meeting in May would be the appropriate time to meet.

Dysart et al Deputy Mayor Patrick Kennedy was also supportive of meeting in person as a council, with committees meeting by Zoom, and social distancing and mask-wearing being optional.

Moffatt said the cost of gas and the mileage issue was something to consider as well – council had earlier opted to raise the mileage fee (see brief below).

“We’re looking at tenders coming in way over price, costs are increasing, we’ve just raised the mileage fee, let’s not all get giddy and jump in our cars,” she said, noting it would be best to not put more cars on the road.

The committee of the whole meeting will take place on May

11, with CAO Mike Rutter and IT staff attending in-person, and other staff attending virtually.

Short-term rental survey looking for feedback

Residents will soon be able to offer their perspectives on short-term rentals in the area. A survey looking to garner information on residents’ perspectives about short-term accommodations and issues around the venues so that the county can prepare a new short-term rental policy will soon be released after much review from council.

An updated short-term rental community survey was presented to council by J.L. Richards & Associates Ltd. Council with changes made after councillors had scrutinized a draft of the survey at a Feb. 23 meeting.

While some councillors had questions still about definitions and clarity of questions within the survey, Dysart et al Mayor Andrea Roberts said it was a good starting point, offering space for feedback.

“I think we’re just trying to get a bit of a snapshot of what are the pros, the cons, the concerns, all of the feelings and perceptions, and this is the public’s opportunity to get that back to us.”

It’s expected to be the first of two surveys released.

Mileage rate increase

Councillors approved an amendment to the county’s mileage rates policy, increasing the rate from 45 cents per kilometre to 61 cents per kilometre for the first 5,000 kilometres and 55 cents for distances after, according to Canada Revenue Agency reasonable allowance rates.

In a report from Mike Rutter, county CAO/clerk, he said Haliburton County’s CAOs had recently been discussing mileage rates, and that other EOWC municipalities showed Haliburton County’s rates are “significantly lower” than others. The Haliburton County Public Library has recently decided to increase their mileage rates, and Dysart et al has directed a review of their policy as well.

“With the dramatic increase in gas prices, combined with the fact that mobility has increased with the lessening of public health restrictions, staff are recommending that a review take place at this time,” said Rutter in his report.

Algonquin Highlands Mayor Carol Moffatt asked if a report was necessary, if it was already known what the CRA rates were. County councillors agreed.

“If we’re going to hitch our wagon to the CRA, let’s just do it,” said Minden Mayor Brent Devolin.

'Anxious, a little unsure, but still hopeful': TLDSB director

by **SUE TIFFIN**
Editor

The following are brief reports from a Trillium Lakelands District School Board meeting held both in person and virtually on March 22.

"It is good to be back in person," said Wes Hahn, school board director in his director's update, acknowledging much of the board meeting in the same room again. Board members sat distanced from each other with some wearing masks, while a few tuned in virtually.

As the province dropped mask mandates that week, beginning March 21, Hahn said Trillium Lakelands District School Board aligned with decisions from the ministry, supporting the personal choice of students, staff and visitors to wear masks in schools.

"We've made it very, very clear that this is a choice for parents and our staff and our students and that we certainly support that choice, and we will stand behind that," said Hahn. "We know that the superintendents have been discussing that with their administrators, to make sure that everyone feels welcome, whatever decision they make within our building."

Hahn said hand hygiene etiquette, enhanced cleaning, use of HEPA filters, absence reporting to the ministry, rapid antigen tests and vaccination clinics continue.

"We have some challenges ahead, there's no doubt about it," he said. "There's still a lot of anxious feelings in the system. Superintendents this week have been touching base with their administrators, and we've been getting a sense of how the system is feeling with the new changes. Anxiety, sure, being anxious, a little unsure, but still hopeful."

He said, "we want to keep the learning momentum moving forward."

Trustee John Byrne asked if masks are mandatory on school buses, as they are on public transit. Hahn said masks are optional on buses, too.

Right to Read

"Literacy and especially the reading in our system needs a focus," said Hahn, citing two years of working through a pandemic, and for some students, not finding the support they need virtually, as causing challenges.

A Right to Read panel, in which educators from across the school board will join the administration team to share expertise from the classroom is upcoming.

OSSLT results

In an update on secondary school learning, Kim Williams, TLDSB superintendent of learning, said the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test, rather than being the "fulsome test that we've had in the past that takes the entire day," was instead shorter and had fewer open-response and longer response items, and more "clicking and dragging."

The success rate of participating students was 74.6 per cent. The OSSLT will be written again in the spring.

COVID-19 Lab Confirmed Cases, Hospitalizations, and Deaths by Municipality, Since 01 January 2022

County	Municipality	Active cases (current)	2022 Total cases	2022 Case rate per 100,000 population	Non-outbreak cases (cumulative)	Outbreak cases (cumulative)	Hospitalizations (cumulative)	Deaths (cumulative)
Haliburton	Algonquin Highlands	0	17	671.7	17	0	1	0
Haliburton	Dysart et al	1	87	1,275.7	73	14	4	0
Haliburton	Highlands East	1	27	767.7	24	3	0	0
Haliburton	Minden Hills	4	68	1,027.7	59	9	0	0
Kawartha Lakes	Kawartha Lakes	38	1,916	2,354.7	1,178	738	41	17
Northumberland	Alnwick/Haldimand	4	173	2,199.3	156	17	3	2
Northumberland	Brighton	9	209	1,651.5	188	21	9	2
Northumberland	Cobourg	14	388	1,903.3	252	136	7	1
Northumberland	Cramahe	3	116	1,796.5	103	13	7	1
Northumberland	Hamilton Township	8	158	1,289.9	142	16	3	0
Northumberland	Port Hope	6	250	1,436.4	166	84	4	1
Northumberland	Trent Hills	6	387	2,897.4	195	192	7	4
Total HKPRDHU	All Municipalities	94	3,796	1,985.1	2,553	1,243	86	28

COVID-19 in the community

Four new lab-confirmed cases of COVID-19 were reported in Haliburton County on March 28, while 23 new cases were reported in City of Kawartha Lakes and 22 in Northumberland County. The health unit notes PCR testing remains restricted to only those who live or work in highest-risk settings and do not accurately reflect community spread. /Screenshot from HKPRD website

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Scams and fraud

EVERY ONCE in awhile, my life is interrupted with a scam of some form in the shape of a phone call, an email or a text – or a series of them, really, as there’s never just one, is there?

Last week, I heard from some friends that they had received a text message from “Service Ontario” with a link to click in order to receive their \$120 licence plate sticker refund. Service Ontario doesn’t send refunds through text, but it’s so easy in a world of busyness, multi-tasking and pandemic-induced brain fog to be duped.

March is Fraud Prevention Month and though we’re moving our way into April, it’s important to remind readers every once in awhile to be alert to tricksters – especially if you’re not active on Facebook or Twitter where so many alerts of prevalent scams and fraud are shared by news agencies and police.

As fraudsters often use impersonation tactics, causing you to trust they’re someone you care about, Fraud Prevention Month focuses on impersonation scams. Here are some of

the top scams and fraud of 2021 as listed by the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre so you’ll more easily know them when you see them:

- **Crypto investment scams**: Fraudsters pose as friends, family and others to offer fake investment opportunities to steal money. This was the highest reported scam based on dollar loss in 2021. Most often, it involves Canadians investing in cryptocurrency by downloading a trading platform and transferring cryptocurrency – but then victims are unable to withdraw funds they’ve transferred. Also looks like: romance turns into “investment opportunity”; phone calls asking for access to phone or computer; “friend” pitches an opportunity over social media.

- **Extortion**: Fraudsters pose as police officers, government agents, bank employees, Hydro company officials or Canada Border Services Agency or Canada Post, asking you for information

that you normally wouldn’t give over the phone to people who have called you.

- **Emergency/grandparent scams**: Fraudsters contact seniors or family members claiming their grandchild or family member was hurt, charged with an offence, or ill and needs help. In some cases they might have gotten personal information from your Facebook profile so know accurate names and details of your life, and can sometimes sound like your family member with a spotty phone connection. If you think it’s your grandson, call your grandson before you send money.

- **Phishing**: Fraudsters use mass email campaigns that contain links that will infect your computer with malware. If you’re concerned you’re missing an important piece of information from someone by not clicking a link, call that person or company to confirm they sent the email.

Always avoid clicking anything unsolicited, try not to buy things from links you’ve clicked rather than directly going to a company’s website, take a moment before you act, and most importantly – remind

others of this information so that when they get the text, call or email it’s top of mind.

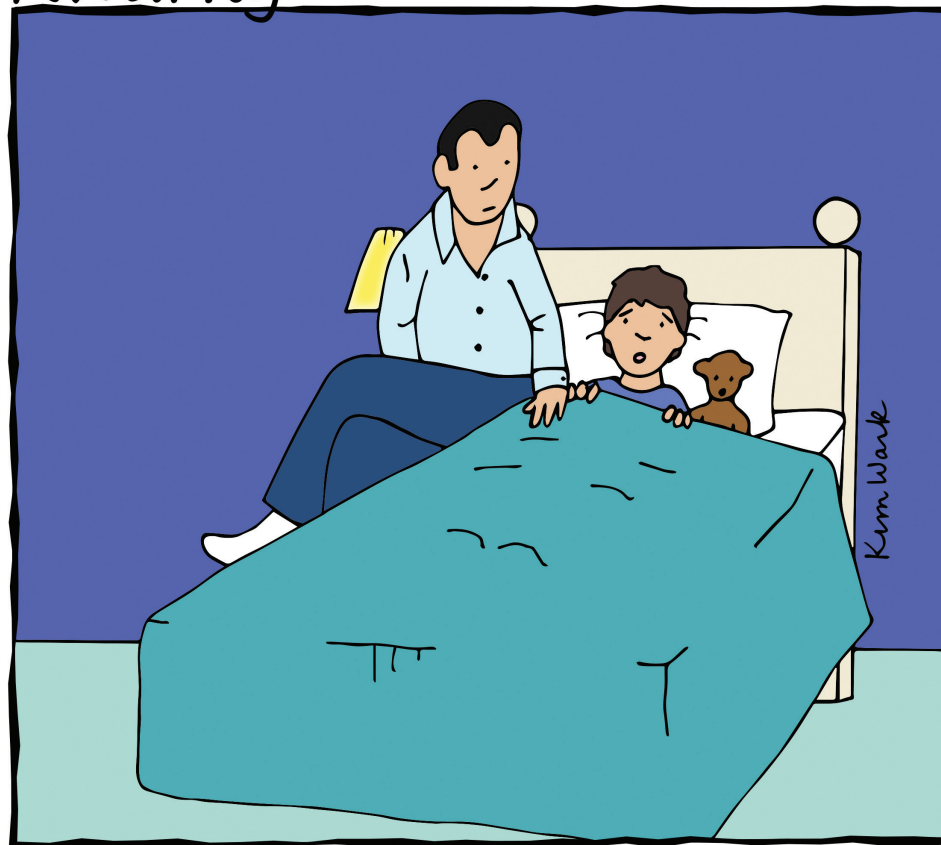
If you think something might not be right about a purchase you’ve made that hasn’t arrived, phone calls you’re getting or feel a sinking feeling after you’ve clicked a link or responded to questions on the phone, contact the Haliburton Highlands OPP or the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre at 1-888-495-8501 to report what’s happened so that it might not happen to others.

Most importantly, remember that no matter how aware you are, sometimes the people who are trying to deceive you are good at what they do, and often prey on those of us who are most trusting, caring and wanting to help others. Being the victim of a scam or fraud can make us feel pretty crummy, but so often we’re fooled because we care for and trust others.



SUE TIFFIN
Editor

Kwarky



“Will you check for germs under the bed?”

Wading into it

YOU KNOW you need a new set of waders when you can hang them open side up from a tree over the garden, fill them with water and use them as a sprinkler. This is the point I am at with my old waders.

Those old neoprene pants, which have served me well for many seasons of trout fishing and duck hunting, are now holier than the Pope.

All this is to say, as much as I hate to admit it, I need a new set of waders.

This pains me. Mostly because a new pair of waders of the quality I need are expensive. Sure, I could convince myself to spend that kind of money, if I amortized the cost over 20 years. But deep down, I know it’s about more than mere money. Lately, I have come to the realization that I have a deep, sentimental attachment to that old pair of waders. I’d rather not throw them aside.

Even so, we are not on good terms. To be completely honest, I have not spoken to them since the end of last duck season. On that day, I got a little angry at them for letting too much frigid water in. Crazy huh? Especially, after all we’ve been through.

The good news is I’ve had a winter to think about our relationship. And in that time, I came to realize that those waders just might have good reason to be mad at me too. Plenty of reasons actually.

Being an angler’s or hunter’s set of waders is not an easy job. Heck, if reincarnation actually existed, I would never want to come back as a pair.

Waders, after all, are designed to keep fluid out. Which also means that they are

pretty good at keeping fluid in. This can be an issue when you are chest deep in water and casting a fly when a moose cow and calf swim around the corner.

And though some waders are made of “breathable” material, they don’t let out nearly enough air to make conditions inside them hospitable to any form of life, especially if you had beans and wieners the night before.

We don’t just torture our waders on the inside either. We abuse them on the outside too. We think nothing of wading or walking in them through areas with sharp jagged rocks and pointed sticks or ice. And we don’t think twice about throwing them in the back of our vehicles among all sorts of abrasive, corrosive, or sharp things. Few of us clean them properly or let them dry out the way they should either.

So, is it any wonder they go sour on us? Literally.

The point is that the relationship an angler or hunter has with their waders is not a one-way street. If truth be told, we get way more out of the bargain than our waders do.

They keep up warm and dry and protect us from things like leeches, hellgrammites, and barbed wire. We just show them our worst side every time we meet.

This got me thinking that I should probably appreciate my old waders a little more and maybe even try to fix the relationship.

So, later this afternoon, I’m going to the basement to spend a little time with my old waders. We’ll reminisce about the good times, have a few laughs, and work on our relationship. Hopefully, it’s not too late to patch things up.



STEVE GALEA
Beyond 35

IN OTHER WORDS

Columns and Letters to the Editor

Hope in an angry world

THE ABSOLUTELY last place I ever expected to learn anything important was sitting in front of the television watching the Academy Awards.

I gave up watching the annual awards show years ago, finding it silly and boring. Hollywood and its elites at their worst.

I'm not the only one. Viewership of the awards show has declined over the past decade with the 2021 show seeing a 56-per-cent drop in viewership from the previous year.

But there I was Sunday night, sprawled in my TV chair, watching unkempt and badly dressed men (and very loosely clad women) movie stars smirking at badly told jokes. I ended up in front of the TV because it was a bitterly cold night (well into the minus 20s considering the wind chill) and I needed to stay up late feeding the woodstove so it would build good coals for overnight.



JIM POLING SR.

From Shaman's Rock

And that's when I learned just what an angry and violent place our world has become.

My eyelids were starting to droop when Will Smith, who won the best actor Oscar, jumped from his seat in the audience, strode to the stage and slapped show host Chris Rock in the face.

At first, I thought it was a pre-planned piece of awards show silliness, but it was a real slap, delivered with real anger. Smith returned to his seat, and shouted "keep my wife's name out of your (expletive) mouth."

Rock, a stand-up comedian, had made a very stupid attempted joke about Smith's wife Jada Pinkett Smith, who appeared at the show with a shaved head look.

"Jada, I love you. *G.I. Jane 2*, can't wait to see it . . .," Rock cracked to Pinkett Smith.

It was a reference to the 1997 *GI Jane* movie in which Demi Moore shaved her head to portray a Navy Seal recruit. Pinkett Smith shaved her head because she has been diagnosed with alopecia, a hair loss condition.

Not very funny and easy to understand why Smith was upset, although his reaction surely would have been calmer and more reasonable in a less angry world.

It was a scene that supports a 2020 - 21 Gallup poll finding that the world is becoming more unhappy and angrier.

The poll, called the Global Emotions Report, surveyed 160,000 people in 116 countries and found the world a sadder, angrier, more worried and stressed-out place than any time in the last 15 years.

We read, hear and view stories about how angry and intolerant the world has become. But when actors start assaulting each other live on international television you know that intolerance and anger is out of control.

The Academy Awards show was followed by late night television news reporting more doses of anger and intolerance. The lead item was angry reaction to U.S. President Biden saying Russian president Putin "cannot remain in power."

The media and others made this into the U.S. president calling for regime change in Russia. It wasn't. It was simply Biden's opinion that Putin is a brutal butcher who should not have power over anything.

That's what he thinks, that's what he said out loud. So, what's to be shocked or angry about?

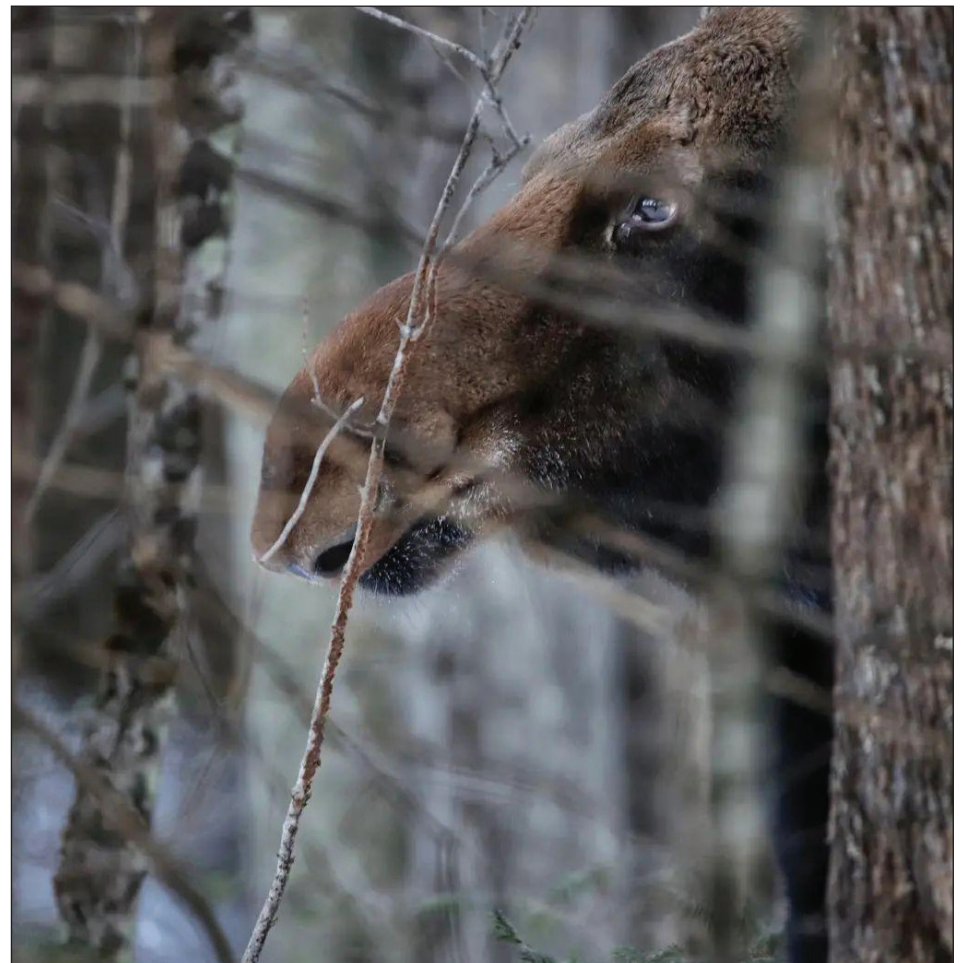
However, in an angry and intolerant world there is no time nor patience for thinking things through and trying to understand what someone has said or done. Contradiction and yelling are quicker and easier.

What's interesting – and hopeful – about Sunday's Academy Awards is the contradiction between the show itself and the movies nominated for awards.

The show participants appeared to be a stressed, unhappy bunch – angry and violent in the case of Will Smith; uninformed or intolerant in the case of Chris Rock.

Many of the movies being celebrated, however, were about how understanding and love can overcome anger, intolerance and tribalism to make for a better world.

CODA, *King William* and *West Side Story* are movies with sadness, anger and violence but they give viewers a sense of hope for a better future. Even *The Power of the Dog*, which I thought was a bad film while others loved it, shows us that accepting and struggling to overcome our problems can make the world a less angry and better place for all.



Maggie the Moose

A visiting moose, named Maggie by watching humans. "I'm hoping I'll see her again."/Photo by June Krisko

letters to the editor

Public boat launch has benefits

To the Editor,

Re: Minden Hills says no to Bob Lake boat launch (The Times, March 16)

I encourage the Minden Hills council and Bob Lake Association to pursue options to re-establish the public boat launch.

We have a cottage nearby, on Minden Lake. I do not currently own a boat bigger than a canoe, but see multiple benefits from the public launch on our lake:

- The public launch supports shoreline preservation – a key goal of Minden Hills – by reducing the need to establish boat launches on individual properties.

- It gives access for initiatives protecting lake health, fish and wildlife species, and monitor-

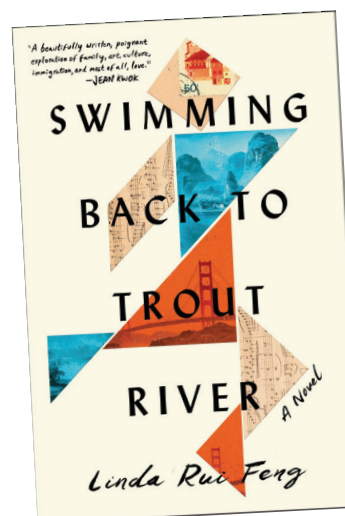
ing for invasive species, toxic algae bloom and other issues. Our waterways and our health are interconnected.

- Provincial police used our public boat launch recently for an urgent search operation; they could quickly access the lake from the launch and use it as a staging area.

Kudos to Councillor Pam Sayne for supporting further talks. A new site for the Bob Lake launch has already been established. The finish line is in sight. With some creativity among interested parties, the cost issue can be addressed and this important project completed.

**Ian Kinross
Minden**

HCPL's Book of the Month - April



In the summer of 1986, in a small Chinese village, ten-year-old Junie receives a momentous letter from her parents, who had left for America years ago: her father promises to return home and collect her by her twelfth birthday. But Junie's growing determination to stay put in the idyllic countryside threatens to derail her family's shared future.

What Junie doesn't know is that her parents, Momo and Cassia, are newly estranged from one another in their adopted country, each holding close private tragedies and histories from the tumultuous years of their youth during China's Cultural Revolution. In order for Momo to fulfill his promise, he must make one last desperate attempt to reunite all three members of the family before Junie's birthday—even if it means bringing painful family secrets to light.

Linda Rui Feng's debut novel is a tale of heartbreak and resilience, and spills over with hope, compromise, and abiding ingenuity. It is one of this year's

Evergreen nominees, and is available now from Haliburton County Public Library.

Protestors Greg Roe of Concerned Citizens of Haliburton County and Environment Haliburton! vice-president Terry Moore stand together during a climate protest on Friday, March 25 in front of the locomotive landmark in Haliburton. Organized locally by Environment Haliburton! and the Concerned Citizens of Haliburton County, the protest was held as part of the Global Climate Protest organized by Fridays for Future. /DARREN LUM Staff



Protestors for climate change action stand together, hoping to raise awareness of the environmental crisis facing society.

Standing together for climate action

by **DARREN LUM**
Times Staff

A cool wind and falling snow did little to diminish the heat from the fervor expressed by protesters, who gathered at the locomotive landmark in Haliburton last Friday to take a stand against the inaction by policy-makers and world leaders to help resolve the climate change crisis and prioritize #peoplenotprofits.

Locally, this protest was organized by the Environment Haliburton! (EH!) and Concerned Citizens of Haliburton County (CCHC), but was part of the Global Climate Strike protests held throughout the world by Fridays for Future.

The effort is looking for an actionable resolution to the climate change crisis, but protestors are also interested in protecting species and biodiversity, stopping colonization and retail sale of Indigenous ancestral lands to drilling and mining corporations for extraction of fossil fuels, reparation of land and funds to Indigenous people, increased funding for adaptation to climate change and reduced CO2 emissions.

EH! vice-president Terry Moore said the protest in Haliburton was about raising awareness of the climate crisis.

"Well, I think that it's really important that every

community tries to stand up and support Fridays for Future. This is a global problem. We have one atmosphere and we all have to be part of the solution. So, it's really important for us to be out here today," he said.

Moore said he is also a member of Seniors for Climate Action Now, an organization expressing intergenerational support for the next generation who will inherit the Earth. Born in 1949, Moore said he feels an obligation and guilt to help the next generation with resolving the damage after damaging actions taken in his era, which has resulted in environmental issues of today, in which the atmosphere is compromised.

"As a generation, my generation is leaving a huge mess that future generations are going to have to ... take the lion share of the responsibility ... when the stuff hits the fan is going to be dying. Not mine," he said, referring to rising emissions.

"I feel a responsibility for that. I've got grandchildren. I've got children and I don't want to pass on a legacy for them that's going to be poisoned," he said.

Moore said his consciousness for action was raised during the 1970s when he was in university, which at the time coincided with the start of the environmental movement.

Close to two dozen protestors showed up to last Friday's event, but those that attended the hour long protest said it's not about the numbers, it's about keeping the momentum going to keep the climate crisis in the public's mind.

"Anybody showing up is good for me. It's not about total numbers. It's about, really, can we build community support? Yeah, I think there's a whole bunch of people in this community who would really want to see

robust climate action and are pissed off that it's not happening," Moore said.

He added there are polls that suggest that more than 75 per cent of Canadians want to see climate action.

Greg Roe of CCHC shared the same perspective as Moore related to feeling a need to do something, which started during the 1970s when he recognized the climate was changing, but added, "Why are we here locally? I keep asking myself. And, I think there's an adage that people need to hear or see things three times before it even registers. [They think] maybe that is real. Maybe there's something I should do [about climate change]."

He said one thing people can do to help is to not let their vehicle idle.

"A simple thing like that. Shut off your vehicle and you're helping to support the planet," he said.

Roe adds he is purposeful with his drives to town, thinking of how to do more on a trip so he takes less trips with his vehicle.

This coming election is an opportunity for the public to ensure the climate change crisis is addressed by policy makers, Moore said.

"We've got an election coming up in June 2. We've got a government that's nowhere on climate, less than nowhere, and, so, we've got to deliver a message to our political leaders that we want to see real concrete action, not bogus climate plans, but real climate actions. So, we've got a chance to say something about that on June 2.

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The Times
MINDEN, ONTARIO

Splash into spring

Spring Splash drew an eclectic crowd, with some wearing ensembles befitting the tropics. /Photo by Tim Tofflemire (Tofflemire Photography on Facebook)



Spring Splash participant Kieran Hutchinson glides over the pool of water in the annual competition, pitting skiers, riders and every other kind of competitor against the laws of physics at Sir Sam's Ski and Ride in Eagle Lake. There were 40 contestants who attempted to cross the pool of frigid water at the end of the Cash Register run for the annual event to end the ski hill's season. There were more than 200 people at the hill for the day. /Photo by Vivian Collings

Make Dreams Come True invites requests

by DARREN LUM
Times Staff

Finding that perfect formal ensemble for the upcoming graduation this year is closer than you think.

After eight years, the Make Dreams Come True initiative continues to be a service for anyone interested in acquiring everything from dress shoes, pants, dresses, shirts, suits and ties for no cost in Haliburton County.

It's all a credit to the passion of its co-founder Jenn Abbott and the support of the community.

Abbott is proud about the longevity and has always believed in providing this service to anyone that needs and wants it.

"I like to get to be able to give back to the community and I think that helping kids, you know, in our community is a big thing. Especially, with how kids had a really hard time with COVID and I still kept my services open to kids that wanted an outfit, whether they needed one or not," she said.

Abbott adds she's helped some young people, who just needed a formal ensemble to look good for a social event of significance to them. This effort for the mother of four said the Make Dreams Come True service has value for the recipients, and giving back has its rewards.

"But it is nice to see the smiles on the kid's faces when they come and pick up their out-

fit. It's nice to get pictures of them and their outfits that you chose for them ... so it warms your heart," she said.

She's been led to believe graduations will be held this year and is hopeful to help those students locally who would otherwise have to travel out of the community to purchase formal attire.

None of this effort would be possible without the support of the community she said.

This includes donations from residents, who have ensured there is a collection available to give people. Abbott said she welcomes donations, whether they are dress suits, dresses, formal shoes for men and women.

"I'm happy to take them off your hands," she said.

Facilitating this service alone, she said, the condition of the donated clothing needs to be ready to wear.

Unlike other years before the pandemic when there was a location for pickup, she's arranging pickups for those interested. People can get a bag of clothes, and then try everything on and see the clothing at home. Whatever isn't wanted can be returned.

Anyone interested in receiving help are encouraged to contact Abbott by phone or through Facebook, which she prefers. She encourages requests be made sooner than later in the school year to ensure she can fulfill specific demands. Include details such as size, colour preferences, and photo examples,

which depict ensembles or styles of clothing. Photos to commemorate the occasion are possible, with the ongoing offer for a portrait session from local photographer Chantal Smith, who has provided her services since the Make Dreams Come True project started eight years ago.

Hundreds of people have been recipients of Make Dreams Come True and Abbott wants more to benefit. She said this service is for anyone interested in formal attire, which in some cases are brand new with the price tags on still.

She hopes after all the years that the public knows this service is open to everyone, re-

gardless of economic need. It's all about giving an opportunity to gain access to formal clothing in the community.

"I can't change people's minds. I mean, I just put it out there. You know, people that are on my site get to see [the dresses]. They don't look like your hand-me-downs. They don't look like they've been used," she said.

Those interested can call Abbott at 705-286-0906 or message her through Facebook at her personal account (www.facebook.com/jennifer.abbott.12) or Make Dreams Come True.

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Her hobbies include all kinds of sports, travelling, hiking, cycling & learning photography.

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Summer Marketing Coordinator

- Assist in implementing the organization's new Marketing & Communications Strategy

Summer Fundraising Coordinator

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Nichols shares insights into youth, housing precarity and poverty

by **SUE TIFFIN**
Editor

Dr Naomi Nichols, Canada Research Chair in Community-Partnered Social Justice and a sociology professor at Trent University, was the key speaker at the 31st Celebration of Research held virtually on March 26.

Nichols said she grew up in Peterborough and the surrounding counties, and has connections to Haliburton County including her 2013 participation on an advisory committee on youth homelessness conducted in the area by Dr. Fay Martin. She has a keen interest in youth homelessness which has largely occurred in small rural areas in Ontario and Quebec and her work encourages institutional change for Canada's most vulnerable youth.

By 2016, 20 per cent of Canada's homeless population was made up of young people between 13 and 24 years old, with up to 40,000 young people experiencing homelessness in any given year, said Nichols.

"But at the time of my own doctoral research around 2007, youth homelessness was not as widely understood and because of this it was thought to be less common, particularly in small cities like Peterborough or in rural areas like Haliburton," she said. "Since no one was keeping track back then it's hard to say whether this is true or not, but it was certainly the case that many people back then and in my own youth relied on informal networks or adopted a travelling lifestyle where it was not uncommon for them to lack a safe space to sleep."

Nichols said as a doctoral student, she wanted to study the experiences of people who leave home between the ages of 16 and 18, like family and friends she knew, "because it was clear to me that human services – schools, welfare, housing resources, healthcare – were not organized with these young people in mind and thus didn't end up serving as protective forces in their lives. Sadly, this remains the case today."

Recent research Nichols conducted in Quebec showed that "schools, mainstream mental health services, and substance use programs continue to assume that young people are housed," she said, "and thus fail to provide interventions that are truly health-promoting or educative, and relatedly, they often misinterpret young people's actions as resulting from apathy, or deliberate or willful non-compliance."

While she was working on her PhD, through a matching program like U-Links, Nichols ended up working at an emergency shelter in Peterborough. She learned about shelter work, and what challenges the shelter workers were experiencing, and then later about the youth themselves, realizing that the institutional constraints making shelter work difficult resulted in challenges for the youth to have their needs met as well. From there, she said she was able to design and secure funding for a staff position and a program to address the systemic and structural issues she was learning about.

"And in this way, sort of speaking to or illuminating the importance of these deeply collaborative and community-based partnerships and centres like U-Links or in my case the Knowledge Mobilization Unit, that bring students with tons of energy and organizations and communities together," she said.

The program ended when the funding ran out, the problems being experienced too vast for a limited-term program-based funding.

"Young people and shelter workers continued to navigate a service context where they had little power to enact the structural



Dr. Naomi Nichols was the keynote speaker at the U-Links Celebration of Research held virtually March 26, speaking to youth homelessness in rural areas./Screenshot from TrentU.ca.

changes that were necessary for preventing youth homelessness," said Nichols. "Since then the shelter has developed an array of other supports for young people but these continue to prove insufficient in the context of persistent social inequalities and inadequate institutional and policy responses to address the acute and cumulative effects of people suffering," she said.

Nichols said she recently co-authored an article on the barriers homeless youth face in accessing timely, adequate and evidence-based mental health and substance use treatment options.

"Emergency healthcare and crisis supports may keep people alive, but youth need access to timely diagnoses and comprehensive treatment plans that include housing if we want young people to thrive," she said. The research suggests, she says, that sometimes a lack of health access actually causes homelessness when youth and families are left to manage mental health without consistent and professional support.

The COVID-19 pandemic has intensified all of these problems, said Nichols. A study conducted in the first year of the pandemic showed increased anxiety, depression, isolation and loneliness in homeless youth, the same study found 80 per cent of service providers reported youth were experiencing a limited capacity to access mental health services.

"So in other words, just as an increasing need surged, there was a diminished capacity to actually respond effectively to this need," said Nichols.

Service access is more severely compromised in rural locations, and another problem is reflected in the overrepresentation of young people with histories of child welfare involvement among youth experiencing homelessness.

Nichols circled back to Haliburton County and other rural areas like it.

"Young people end up involved with children's aid societies, in permanent ways through what are called extended society care orders - they used to be the crown ward system - as well as in a range of different temporary ways, sometimes respite agreements that families voluntary enter into and a new form of agreement that young people can enter into in that little window that can be a place of vulnerability for young people, between the ages of 16 and 18."

"The problem is that it's really hard to find

suitable and permanent housing for young people receiving child welfare services, particularly as they progress through adolescence, and especially once they've exhausted the few local foster care or group home situations available in their communities."

Locally, young people involved with child welfare are served by the Kawartha-Haliburton Children's Aid Society, which has a vast catchment including Peterborough, Peterborough County, City of Kawartha Lakes and Haliburton County.

Nichols said extended society care youth are sometimes placed or housed in a number of different communities, creating instability early in life. Rural youth involved with the Kawartha-Haliburton Children's Aid Society needing emergency shelter placement are always relocated to Peterborough.

"For many this move will not represent the first or their last shift," said Nichols, noting some youth are moved to facilities throughout the region before being relocated to Peterborough, or exhaust the options of very few local foster families who are willing to take adolescents.

"This pattern of voluntary relocation or institutional dislocation from rural to urban centres is common for young people growing up in poverty and facing housing precarity," said Nichols.

The migration of homeless youth to cities happens across Ontario and Quebec.

"The challenge of finding suitable and stable housing for youth, has been made worse by the financialization of housing and the resulting affordable housing crisis shaping housing eco-systems across Canada," said Nichols. She said she had recently been told that young people involved with Children's Aid Society are increasingly being given tents, allowed to stay in CAS offices, or placed in hotels given the profound lack of housing in the province.

"But each of these housing arrangements – a tent, an office, a youth shelter, and a motel – have the potential to increase young people's exposure to social and geographic dislocation, social isolation and various forms of overlapping exploitation and abuse. And each of these subsequent exposures ... make a person vulnerable to homelessness and other difficult situations throughout their life." Nichols said most of these problems were evident back when Martin was doing her research on patterns of rural migration of precariously housed youth. At that time, Martin

conducted 48 interviews with young people who were insecurely housed and had grown up in rural areas in eastern Ontario. Of this sample, 21 were from Haliburton, and of that group, 14 have left and returned, and seven have migrated permanently.

"In the executive summary, Dr. Martin notes 'participants felt they had little choice but to leave their rural communities to access resources necessary to make successful transitions to adult productivity. Those whose needs early in life exceeded available resources had the decision to migrate made on their behalf by families and formal structures and seldom returned.'"

"Martin's research highlights the ways that conditions surrounding a young person's migration out of their rural community reflect local service inadequacies, larger structural inequalities and longer histories of instability that shape their efforts to housing, security and wellness as they age." Nichols sighs, and asks the crowd watching, "so what should we do?"

"Given the overwhelming evidence that homelessness results from profound structural inequalities, in access to and benefits from income, education, transportation infrastructure, housing, healthcare, social services and the legal system, this is where our advocacy efforts need to focus," she said.

"People in rural communities have less access to shared public resources, things like social housing and shared public transportation, and thus may benefit more from programs like a universal basic income, and/or a mutual aid and voluntary efforts to redistribute resources and opportunities within a community through forms of direct action. I'm not going to advocate that the answer is always to manage youth homelessness in place, that is in a young person's home community, because there may be good reasons for a young person to leave ... but for those who wish to stay in which to preserve health-promoting, social connections, this should be a priority: keeping them home, one that could be actualized by ensuring that some municipal rent subsidies are reserved for youth housing with supports in community, prioritizing access to education, health and social programs with online options ... local satellite programs and improved public transportation infrastructure – that was one of the dominant themes in Dr. Martin's research – and continuing to support child, youth and family wellbeing through a range of free, accessible and high-quality programs like those currently being offered by agencies like Point in Time."

Between featured projects of eating disorders in rural areas, food waste reduction strategies and aquatic and terrestrial biomonitoring, participants were able to make a choice of which breakout session they'd like to attend, from projects including a study on how to recover and restore the nine-spotted lady beetle population; the socio-economic impacts of wetlands; Indigenizing programming at Abbey Gardens; the feasibility of developing a weevil farming operation for Drag and Spruce Lakes; and anthropogenic land use impacts on the water quality of Upper Stoney Lake.

More information about U-Links Centre for Community-Based Research is available at ulinks.ca. Groups and organizations, businesses and municipalities with project ideas or questions of interest to members of the community should contact U-Links staff to get started. To watch this year's Virtual Celebration of Research video or review research posters and key findings, visit <https://www.ulinks.ca/celebration-of-research.html>.

OPP sergeant nominated for Hero Award

Officer's actions worthy of award nomination by Police Association

by **DARREN LUM**
Times Staff

There are heroes among us and sometimes they're given the recognition they don't want, but deserve.

Haliburton Highlands OPP sergeant Paul McDonald was recently nominated for the Police Association's Hero Award, through letters of nomination by people directly affected by his willingness to listen, be present and contribute to the community.

From a posted message, on the Police Association website: "In July of 2015, my family was shattered by the news of my young brother's passing in a car accident. One of the responding officers was officer Paul McDonald. For almost seven years, I've tried to think of ways to repay him for the love, care, support and service he provided my family and myself the night of and after my brother's unexpected passing. Even though the news wasn't easy to break to my family nor was it easy for us to take, I felt comforted at the same time when officer McDonald told me. He stayed by us to make sure we were getting all the support we needed and helped arrange for us to see my brother before he was taken to the coroners office. Officer McDonald went above and beyond that night and after to make sure my family and I were receiving all the support we needed. I have yet to figure out a way to repay him for everything he has done for us, but I hope that he gets the recognition he deserves for the incredible service he provides to the community. To Officer Paul McDonald, as I write this with tears in my eyes and a very heavy heart, I need you to know that you made an incredibly horrifying situation better. I know there is nothing I can do to repay you for what you have done and continue to do, but I thank you very much for being supportive, caring, kind and most of all my hero. We need more officers like you. Thank you."

The OPP officer joined Haliburton Highlands six months ago. He has been an officer for close to 15 years and has worked in Haldimand County, Quinte West/Trenton, and Peterborough, where he was able to secure funding (along with a Canadian Mental Health Worker) for the Mobile Crisis Intervention Team (MCIT) in Peterborough where it went from part-time to a full-time operation during the time he was the mental health liaison officer for the MCIT. This was the result of looking for a new direction, as a result of his own mental health struggles after many on the job tragedies according to the association.

Being a fourth generation cop, policing is a family legacy he is proud to continue. This nomination isn't the first time McDonald has been recognized for his service.

He was the runner-up for a mental health officer of the

year award last year and received the Commissioner's Citation for Lifesaving in 2011.

To McDonald though, policing has never been about the recognition. It's always been about the giving back to the community.

McDonald said the nomination is nice to receive, but it actually embarrasses him to some extent to receive the attention. However, the value of this nomination is about bringing attention to the work and the difference policing can make for a community.

"Just knowing people recognize the contributions in what I do, and just the nominations themselves are what matter to me. It's hard to say because, again, I don't do it for the nominations or the recognition or to win awards. When I win awards I feel kind of embarrassed because it's not what I signed up to do. I just want to make a difference," he said.

His start in policing started when he was 18 after a traumatic experience.

"I really don't want to get into the gist of it, but someone very close to me was sexually assaulted and almost mur-

dered. And the investigating police service that [worked the case] didn't really make that person feel like a victim, but may have made them feel like it was their fault ... and just the whole thing left a bad taste in my mouth. And from that day forward at 18 years old when I got that phone call to help somebody I just said, I can do it a lot better than the people I saw doing it before me," he said.

The key aspect to his interactions with people in need is compassion, which is done by employing strong listening skills, to hear what is said and wait for his turn to speak.

"It's not our opportunity to put our two cents into the conversation. For me, it's an opportunity to listen to what they have to say and just let them know that I'm there. Right, if we take the time, and [not] kind of rush to get onto the next call, so, if we just take our time with the call that we have, we can be more impactful to the victims and the people we serve in our community," he said.

The winners will be announced later this year.



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Fulfilling a dream and making a community proud

by **DARREN LUM**
Times Staff

Melanie Walter’s dream came true last week when she competed at the 2022 Skate Ontario Provincial Championships in Mississauga on March 24.

Walter has been skating with the Minden Skating Club since she was close to five-years-old. Although the top-30 result in a field of 54 Star 5 single women competitors was not the podium finish she envisioned, she returned with perspective and the respect of her coaches.

The experience is not something she will ever forget. “When I walked through the arena doors I felt like I earned [my place] to be at that competition, and I felt that all my hard work and determination got me here and I felt very proud of myself and very thankful I had an amazing coach by my side ready to help me succeed, and a super supportive club back home cheering me on. I heard lots of noise constantly such as cheering, and it was the perfect amount to push me and keep me going throughout the day,” she wrote in a message, referring to coach Jane Symons and what she felt, heard and saw at the competition. “When I stepped onto the ice, my heart was beating fast. I was of course a little nervous, but I was ready and I was ready to give it my all at this competition. I tuned out everything around me, and I focused on myself at that point. I felt my music and I skated to how I felt in that moment. I was proud of myself for making it to this competition, as it was my top goal to accomplish in my skating career!”

The provincial berth for the Grade 10 Haliburton Highlands Secondary School student was just the second berth for the Minden Skating Club since Janine Garbutt accomplished the feat 25 years ago.

This berth was all the more satisfying, having missed the past two years due to the pandemic. It was something she was proud about, but was also happy to have earned the berth for the supporters in her life, which included her parents, her coaches at the club, the club and the community.

This was her third attempt to reach the provincials. She credits coaches such as Jane Symons, Guy Gordon and David Hollows for the foundation of her figure skating and her present skill set. She said the difference this time compared to the last time she attempted to make the provincials was her focus on her conditioning and preparation. At a glance, a two-minute skating routine doesn’t seem difficult, but it’s an all out effort, demanding mental focus and physical fitness. She acknowledges her advanced physical maturity, which came from her rep volleyball play in Orillia this year and her running regimen – five kilometres a day for five days a week.

“I’ve worked towards it my whole life and it was one of my goals. And, I’m glad I reached it before the end my [time at] high school,” she said.

Coach Symons said Walter was initially disappointed by the provincial result, which was influenced by the deduction during Walter’s skate, which wasn’t implemented as severely as in other competitions.

“Melanie felt bad after she skated saying that she had let Minden down and I quickly told her, on the contrary, you put us on the map and we couldn’t be more proud,” she wrote in a text.

Symons said there is room for improvement, but was happy with the figure skater she has coached for the past 10 years.

“Dave Hollows and Guy Gordon and myself have worked with Melanie as a team these last few years. I started teaching



Minden Skating Club’s Melanie Walter represented her club and the community with pride at the 2022 Skate Ontario Provincial Championships in Mississauga on March 24. She earned her berth with a third place at a figure skating competition in Milton earlier this month, which also earned the medal she wears in the photo. Walter is the first skater from the club in 25 years to go to the provincials since Janine Garbutt. /DARREN LUM Staff

Right, Melanie Walter spins during a practice.

Melanie when she was about five years old and have watched her blossom as a skater. Unfortunately for me she’s very good at many sports, so I don’t get her as often as I’d like. Melanie did miss one spin in her program that she never misses and so lost a bit of a mark on that, but otherwise I was very pleased. There’s no continuation from all-Ontario’s, but [with] the last two years of COVID it was nice to see so many kids out trying their best to represent their clubs. Hopefully she will continue to work on technique and perhaps return to the championships next year. It’s too far away to determine.”

Walter has always loved skating and that won’t ever change.

“I love I can be myself out on the ice. I don’t have to worry about any problems off the ice and it feels like home,” she said.





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Archie Stouffer Elementary School (ASES) Grade 8 volleyball players Maddy Walker, from left, Owen Whitteker and Tori Byrnes watch the ball during a tournament at the Minden elementary school on Thursday, March 24. The field included five teams of Grade 8 students from J. Douglas Hodgson Elementary School and ASES, who got to play in front of spectators inside the school for the first time since the start of the pandemic. /DARREN LUM Staff



Archie Stouffer Elementary School Grade 8 volleyball player Jace Mills plays Rock, Paper, Scissors with opponent Abby Schreuber-Newlove to decide who serves, as her teammate Graham Backus looks on.



Archie Stouffer Elementary School Grade 8 volleyball player Austin Latanville serves during a tournament at the Minden elementary school.

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Storm gets wild

Highland Storm under-18 hockey forward William Craftchick rushes the puck past a Brock Wild defender during Ontario Minor Hockey Association playoff action on Tuesday, March 23 at the A.J. LaRue Arena in Haliburton. The Storm beat the Wild 5-2, with the game-winner by Cooper Coles, a hat-trick by Craftchick and one by Aiden Perrott. /DARREN LUM Staff

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Highland Storm under-18 hockey player Nicholas Phippen wins the faceoff against Brock Wild centre.

SUDOKU

6	1	2	4	9				8
8	4		6		7		9	
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	2						1	5
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		3	9					


Level: Beginner

Here's How It Works:
Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

Answers on page 16

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!



**Notice of
Statutory Public Meeting**
**Concerning a General Review of
Comprehensive Zoning By-law 03-22**

Take Notice That the Township of Algonquin Highlands will hold a Statutory Public Meeting with respect to a proposed update to By-law 03-22, which is the Comprehensive Zoning By-law for the Township of Algonquin Highlands.

The Purpose and Effect of the Review: The Township of Algonquin Highlands is undertaking a review of its Comprehensive Zoning By-law pursuant to Section 26(9) and 34 of the Planning Act, R.S.O., 1990, c.P13, as amended. The review will result in an amendment to the Zoning By-law to:

- Ensure that the Zoning By-law conforms to the policy provisions of the Township of Algonquin Highlands Official Plan, adopted by Council on October 16th, 2018 and approved by the County of Haliburton on November 28th, 2018; and
- Ensure that the planning policies of the Municipality are current and address the needs of the community.

The Public Meeting will provide the public, and all interested parties with an opportunity to provide comments regarding the proposed Zoning By-law. The Public Meeting is scheduled for

Date: Thursday April 21st, 2022
Time: 9:00 a.m.
Location: This will be held as a virtual meeting

The Subject Lands, being the entirety of lands within the limits of the Township of Algonquin Highlands, are not the subject of any other applications under the Planning Act that relate directly to the Comprehensive Zoning By-law update. As the by-law amendments and replacement schedules/mapping applies to lands within the entire Municipality, no key map has been provided herein.

Members of the public wishing to participate and make comment/speak at the meeting regarding the proposed amendments are required to pre-register by emailing socallaghan@algonquinhighlands.ca before **3:00 pm on April 18th, 2022.**

For more information on this matter including information about preserving your appeal rights, please contact Sean O'Callaghan at socallaghan@algonquinhighlands.ca or 705-489-2379 ext 324 of the Planning Department at the Township of Algonquin Highlands during regular office hours (8:30 A.M. - 4:30 P.M., Monday to Friday):

DATED at the Township of Algonquin Highlands, this 30th Day of March 2022.

Huskies downed by Dukes, blank Golden Hawks

by ALEX GALLACHER
Special to the Times

With a shot at first place, the Haliburton County Huskies' playoff seeding became more complicated after a loss to the Wellington Dukes on Saturday and a win against the Trenton Golden Hawks on Sunday.

With three games remaining in the regular season, the Huskies will need to be perfect if they want to have a shot at first place.

On Saturday, March 26, the first place Dukes were in town and with Huskies' starting goalie Christian Cicigoi still out of the lineup, it was up to backup Christian Linton to put on another good performance. Riding eight straight wins, the Huskies looked to cap off a perfect March with only their second win against the Dukes. However, Emmet Pierce had other plans.

After Joe Boice and Ryan Hall were both given penalties for head contact and cross-checking, the Dukes got to work. First, it was David Campbell beating Linton on a tip shot screen in front of the net. Then Pierce beat Linton on a good old fashioned one timer, and the Huskies found themselves down 2-0.

In the second period, the Huskies Christian Stevens finally figured out Ethan Morrow on a Peyton Schaly one timer to pull the Dogs within one. Before the period was over, Jacob Vreugdenhill buried another one timer from Pierce and the two goal lead was restored.

The third period saw three goals, one by Wellington's Jonathon Balah and a second by Pierce to tally his 40th of the season. The only Huskies goal came from Haliburton's own Ryan Hall, who scored his second of the season on a point shot.

With the eight game win streak snapped,

the Huskies' quest for the first overall spot got a lot harder and made Sunday's matinee against Trenton that much more important. With Cicigoi returning to the lineup, he played the game of his life.

With no scoring in the first period, the fans in the S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena would have to wait until period two to see some goals. Lucas Stevenson buried a brilliant feed from Will Gourgouvelis to put the Huskies up 1-0, then a few minutes later came the potential goal of the year.

Cam Kosurko used his jets to beat Nathan Oickle on the breakaway, missing the net on the initial try he circled back around. Not giving up, he flat-footed Oickle and Austin D'Orazio and tucked the puck under Taylor in an amazing individual effort. A short-handed goal for Kosurko, put the Huskies up

with a two goal advantage heading into the third.

One of the league's best offensive defencemen Simon Rose got to work less than two minutes in, burying another goal to cap off his impressive 10 game stretch for the Huskies. Finally, Nick Athanasakos put the puck into the empty net to seal the 4-0 shut-out win for the Huskies.

Cicigoi made a 43-save shutout in his first game back from injury, while Kosurko was buzzing during the post-game autograph session.

"I missed the first chance and it bounced off the glass," Kosurko said. "I corralled it and then put the puck in. It helps that the crowd is really into it, it puts the energy into me and I can do what I do out there."

With three games left in the regular sea-

son, each game is so much more important. Despite two games left against the last place Mississauga Chargers, coach Ryan Ramsay said post game that even the Chargers can't be taken for granted.

"We got three games left," Ramsay said. "We need those points and sometimes it can be hard playing a team that has nothing to lose. We gotta stay focused and we can beat anyone in the league if we play our game. We gotta show up and stick to the game plan."

Those final three games in question come Tuesday, April 29 in Mississauga, Saturday, April 2 in Minden and finally Sunday, April 3 in Wellington. Should the Huskies win all three they will finish the season with 73 points and a shot at first place.



Appreciation for billet hosts

The Haliburton County Huskies honoured billet hosts in Haliburton County with an appreciation presentation before the start of the team's game on March 26 at the S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena in Minden. /Submitted by Alex Gallacher

OJHL playoffs explained

by ALEX GALLACHER
Special to the Times

The playoff format for the 2022 Nutrafoods OJHL Championship Series has been announced. A four-round playoff format will see the winner of the Buckland Cup head directly to Estevan, Saskatchewan to compete in the national tournament.

Due to the close points tally in the East division the Haliburton County Huskies will lock up either the first, second, or third seed, which will mean three possible first round matchups. Beginning on April 10, the Huskies realistically could face the four place Cobourg Cougars should they nab the first seed, or should they lock up the second or third seed a meeting with either the Trenton Golden Hawks or Wellington Dukes await. This opening round will be a best of three series, with the Huskies overall best division head-to-head record coming against the Cobourg Cougars with four wins, one loss and one tie.

Should the Huskies advance from the first round they will start the OJHL divisional finals, beginning on April 16. The higher seeded team will have home ice advantage, with a best-of-five series. Moving on from there, the Huskies will play in the OJHL conference championships, beginning on April 22. This round will be another best of five series, against the winner of the South division.

Finally, should the Huskies go all the way they will move onto the 2022 Nutrafoods OJHL Championship Series beginning on May 2. Competing with the winners of the opposing North-West conference, the Buckland

Cup will be on the line in a grueling best of seven game series. With all nine league winners moving on, if the Huskies win the Buckland they will not need to compete in the regional championships which was due to be hosted by the Superior International Junior Hockey League (SIJHL).

The Centennial Cup championship will feature the Estevan Bruins as the host team as well as the winners from the SIJHL, OJHL, Northern Ontario Junior Hockey League (NOJHL), Central Canada Hockey League (CCHL), Maritimes Hockey League (MHL), Alberta Junior Hockey League (AJHL), Saskatchewan Junior Hockey League (SJHL), Manitoba Junior Hockey League (MJHL) and finally the Ligue de Hockey Junior du Quebec (LHJQ). The British Columbia Hockey League withdrew their membership from the Canadian Junior Hockey League (CJHL) governing body and will not be competing at the tournament.

As the seeding is still unclear, official dates for the Huskies first round playoff games haven't been finalized yet. The Huskies have three more games left (one home, two away), with the final two away games coming against the Mississauga Chargers and the Wellington Dukes and the final home game versus the Chargers.

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COUNTY OF HALIBURTON LAND DIVISION COMMITTEE NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR CONSENT

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 53(5)(a) of the Planning Act and Section 3, O.Reg. 197/96, as amended, that the following Applications for Consent have been submitted to the Haliburton County Land Division Committee, the consent granting authority in these matters.

AND FURTHER THAT An electronic meeting will be held April 11th, 2022 at 7:00 P.M. to consider these applications.

AND FURTHER THAT this meeting will be held through remote electronic participation in accordance with the Municipal Act, 2001, as amended.

The media and the general public can view the Land Division Committee meeting webcast via the County of Haliburton YouTube channel which can be found on the County's website by searching the land division committee (<https://youtu.be/XNKyqYINWPI>).

AND FURTHER THAT these Applications for Consent will be heard by the Land Division Committee:

1. File No. H-004/22 (Hammerhead Holdings Inc.), Property Location: Pt Lot 3, Conc 13, GTWP of Snowdon (MH), Purpose: Right-of-way
2. File No. H-006/22 (Colpitts & Ecclestone), Property Location: Pt Lot 20, Conc 10, GTWP of Lutterworth (MH), Purpose: Right-of-way
3. File No. H-020/22 (Fletcher), Property Location: Conc 11, Pt Lots 9 & 10, GTWP of Lutterworth (MH), Purpose: Right-of-way
4. File No. H-010-22 (May), Property Location: Concession 8, Part Lots 24 and 25, RP 19R7665, PT Part 1, GTWP of Minden (MH), Purpose: Lot Addition
5. File No. H-016-22 (Monaco & Legacy), Property Location: Concession A, Part Lot 12, RD138, Part 26, RP 19R1136, GTWP of Sherborne (AH), Purpose: Lot Addition
6. File No. H-017-22 (Mancuso) Property Location: Concession 6, Part Lot 14, Parts 2, 11-13 of RP 19R6840, GTWP of Minden, Purpose: Lot Addition
7. File No.s H-013-22, H-014-22, H-015-22 (Warsh), Property Location: Concession A, Lot 21, GTWP Township of Anson (MH), Purpose: Three New Lots
8. File No. H-012-22 (Silverton), Property Location: Concession 12, Part Lot 19, Parts 1, 4-9 RP 19R5419, GTWP Township of Sherborne (AH), Purpose: Lot Addition

Additional information regarding the above applications is available for public inspection electronically by request during regular business hours, Monday to Friday, from 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM.

If a person or public body that files an appeal of a decision of the Land Division Committee in respect of the proposed consent does not make written submissions to the Land Division Committee before it gives or refuses to give a provisional consent, the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal may dismiss the appeal.

If you wish to be notified of the decision of the Land Division Committee in respect of the proposed consent, you must make a written request to the undersigned.

Dated at the Township of Minden Hills on March 25, 2022.

Michele Moore
Acting Secretary-Treasurer
Haliburton County Land Division Committee
11 Newcastle Street
P. O. Box 399
Minden, Ontario K0M 2K0
Telephone: (705) 286-1333
or 1-866-886-8815, Ext. 239
Fax: (705) 286-4829
E-mail: mmoore@haliburtoncounty.ca

GENERATIONS

Spring has sprung at Hyland Crest

The Life Enrichment department couldn't be more excited about the month of March because it has brought with it so many blessings in addition to the first day of Spring!

As the restrictions have begun to lighten, we are once again able to welcome back our furry friends for pet visits! You do not realize the difference animals make until you don't get to see them regularly and these visits have been special and very much needed. Volunteers have been making their way back into our home as well. We couldn't be more excited and thankful for the breath of fresh air you all truly are. Thank you in advance for your time and for your care – you truly make a difference. We have also been blessed to welcome back the musical talents of Gord Kidd as well as Simply Befuddled! Thank you for the joy and the music therapy you all bring to us. We have missed you!

On March 4 we took a "Journey to Paris." On the morning of, our residents woke to discover that their dining rooms and surroundings had been transformed into a "ville de Paris." Throughout the course of the day, staff donning berets offered Parisian inspired meals, while the activity staff provided a day of Paris-filled programming. Residents learned about the history and architecture of this famous city and walked the streets through guided visual tours. We took in the classical sounds of the Philharmonie de Paris while enjoying a selection of Petit Four which we washed down with nothing

other than – champagne! It was a truly a day to remember.

St. Patrick's Day was thoroughly celebrated with Irish décor, crafts, trivia, costumes, hearty stews and a party with the live music of Gord Kidd. It's safe to say our Irish ancestors would be proud.

To add to the fun, we also began a Mad Scientist program. We have rediscovered a love for science as we have made our hypotheses and tested chemical reactions. Our results have included personalized lava lamps and a volcano eruption that may have left us in tears from laughter ... and a bit of a mess for our staff to clean up. But it was worth it!

We're ending off our month rolling up our sleeves for our indoor seeding/potting program. This is always a favourite, as it reminds our souls it's almost time for the sunshine and that is a reminder we gladly welcome.

Lindsay Lester
Life Enrichment Program Manager
Haliburton Highlands Health Services

Louise Burakowski makes a connection with Jake, a visitor to Hyland Crest.



Betty Inglis, activities staff Brittany Burton and Dorothy Milne celebrated A Journey to Paris this month, as well as the return of live music to Hyland Crest, a Mad Scientist activity and soon, the planting of seeds.



Doreene Churko enjoys A Journey to Paris, a day of Parisian-inspired meals, guided visual tours and the sounds of the Philharmonie de Paris.



Activities staff Nancy Sanford celebrates St. Patrick's Day with Diane Pratt, at Hyland Crest.



Grace Elliott gets a visit with Kane.

SUDOKU SOLUTION

6	1	2	4	9	3	7	5	8
8	4	5	6	2	7	3	9	1
3	9	7	5	1	8	6	4	2
7	3	1	8	5	9	2	6	4
5	8	6	1	4	2	9	3	7
9	2	4	7	3	6	8	1	5
4	6	8	3	7	1	5	2	9
1	7	9	2	6	5	4	8	3
2	5	3	9	8	4	1	7	6

AROUND THE COUNTY TOWN



Season farewell

Members of the Haliburton County Red Wolves curling team get together for a photo on the last curling day of the season. "Thank you Coaches Dave McKay and Dave Piercey for another great year," said team co-ordinators. /Photo by Haliburton County Red Wolves



Sharing culture

Minden resident Larry O'Connor said "the tail end of winter inspired me to bead the new drum bag of moose hide I made in time to welcome the returning migratory birds." /Photo by Larry O'Connor

To see your loved ones on this page, send photos to sue@haliburtonpress.com



Rick Whitteker explains the process prior to his polar bear dip into the Gull River on March 26. Rick was taking the plunge to help raise funds for son Owen's upcoming graduation celebrations.



Dipping for dollars

A total of \$215 was raised along with goosebumps when a few brave souls ventured into the Gull River in Minden to raise funds for an upcoming elementary school graduation event through a Spring Polar Bear Dip. The group, who organized the event privately, saw Rick and Owen Whitteker, Grace Alder and Ryan King doing "the cold hard work," of taking a quick dip into the cold water as a fundraising effort while a crowd gathered to cheer them on. /Photo submitted by Lisa Tolentino

CRYPTO FUN

Determine the code to reveal the answer!

Solve the code to discover words related to agriculture.
Each number corresponds to a letter.
(Hint: 19 = S)

- A. 24 8 14 9
Clue: Rural area
- B. 15 12 8 21 7 19
Clue: Trees, shrubs and more
- C. 3 8 14 10 6 19 7
Clue: Gathering crops
- D. 12 26 10 6 19 7 17 4 16
Clue: Farm animals

Answers: A. farm B. plants C. harvest D. livestock




Shriner legacy

The Algonquin Shrine Club's long-time noble Keith Irving of Bird's Creek, who is represented by cousin Judy Irving, in red, centre, presented a \$10,000 cheque to the Algonquin Shrine Club last week, as part of a legacy donation outlined in Keith's will. At the presentation alongside Judy were Algonquin Shrine Club nobles Wayne Wiggins, Dave Earle, president noble Jim Burke, and Dean Linton. The club includes residents, who live in the Highlands. /Photo submitted by Charles Mullett

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Specifications may be picked up at the Post Office located at 6 Water Street.

Quotes must be received by April 14, 2022 by 5:00 pm



Curry Chevrolet Buick GMC Ltd. currently seeking an Automotive Service Advisor to join our team for a parental leave contract.

Ideal candidates have strong communication and customer service skills. Previous automotive experience is not required, training is provided on site.
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Qualification:

- Valid driver's license
- Customer service experience
- Strong verbal and written communication skills

Job Type: Full-time, Part-time, Fixed term contract
Contract length: 12 months
Part-time hours: 22-35 per week
Salary: \$17.00-\$19.00 per hour
Schedule: Monday to Friday, Weekend availability

Please forward resumes to the attention of our Service Manager, Chris Pinelli at chris@currychevrolet.ca

FULLY VACCINATED and experienced PSW/ Home Care workers wanted to assist an elderly lady with activities of daily living in her home, including meal prep, mobility, toileting, etc. Weekday/weekend day shifts and standby available in the Minden area. Start immediately. References/background checks required. CALL **705-457-9645.**

WANTED: Part-time garden help. 4+ hours per week for a share of the produce. Must have own vehicle. For more details call: **705-754-5956**

DRIVER WANTED - D.Z. License, Experience with spreading gravel. Knowledge of Front End Loader and knowledge of the surrounding area. Please send Resume by email to: ktupton93@gmail.com

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Haliburton Wee Care is hiring for RECE's and full-time aide positions; individuals 18 years or older who are mature and energetic and able to work various hours up to 44 hours per week, between 7:15-6. Level C Standard First Aid and CPR are required as well as a Health Assessment completed by your physician, record of up-to-date vaccinations (including COVID) and a clear Vulnerable Sector Check completed by the OPP. Experience is an asset.

Cover letter and resume to be emailed to haliburtonweecare@hotmail.com

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Cleaning Services
Onondaga Camp, Minden,
seeks 5 Staff SEASONAL (2022)
Starting at \$20.00 /hr and up

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**Up to 48 hour work week Summer (6 days).
Daily and Evening shifts available. (June-Sept)
NO ACCOMODATION PROVIDED**

Off Site Driver
Onondaga Camp, Minden, seeks
1 Staff SEASONAL (June-Sept, 2022)

Responsibilities

- Pick up prescriptions/supplies as needed for the Health Centre.
- Do a daily 'town run' to pick up supplies that are needed for camp programs or office.
- Pick up supplies in Toronto (or outside of Minden/Haliburton) as needed.
- Handling of incoming and outgoing mail.
- Ensure that vehicles are scheduled and taken for oil changes as needed.
- Ensure the vehicles have adequate gas and fill as necessary.
- Keep vehicles clean and free of garbage.
- Keep the exterior of the vehicles clean; have them washed as needed

Necessary Qualifications/Competencies

- Full G License & minimum age of 21 years old
- Ability to have a flexible schedule and work independently
- Attention to detail
- Ability to work and communicate with a wide variety of people

**30 – 40 Hr work week
June – September Contract**

To protect the health and safety of our clients and employees, we have modified our normal operating policies in response to COVID-19. All Staff are required to be Two Dose Vaccinated against Covid 19 before their contract begins.

If you wish to apply, please send a resume to Matt Brown/Site Manager at matt@onondagacamp.com. Please feel free to contact at (705-286-5025)

A truly Canadian summer tradition, Onondaga Camp offers an extraordinary environment for kids to play, explore, achieve and grow. Situated on the shores of Middle Bob Lake near Minden, Ontario, Onondaga inspires the best in outdoor fun, learning and adventure for girls and boys from six to 16 years old. Onondaga Camp values the diversity of people. We welcome and encourage applications from people with disabilities. Arrangements will be provided, on request, to support candidates taking part in all aspects of the selection process. All responses will be handled with strict confidence.



Employment Opportunity @ Abbey Gardens

Garden Assistant

The Garden Assistant is a seasonal role responsible for assisting with caring for a small market garden operation. Experience working outdoors in physically demanding conditions (heat, precipitation) key. Willingness to learn and interest in fresh local food, gardening and education an asset.

\$16/hr 40hrs/week May - September

Resumes can be submitted to misty@abbeygardens.ca

Sous Chef

The Sous Chef position will be an integral part of the on-site staff team in the Food Hub. This role will include a wide range of tasks in our commercial kitchen including working at the lunch counter, preparing food, baking, canning soups, making preserves, providing customer service, catering, etc. This is a full-time, year-round position, working directly with the Chef. \$18/hr, 40hrs/week.

Resumes can be submitted to ashley@abbeygardens.ca

Kitchen Assistant/Baker

The Kitchen Support/Baking position will be an integral part of the on-site staff team in the Food Hub. This role will primarily support the Chef and Sous Chef in kitchen work, with a special focus on restocking the Garden Café.

\$16/hr Preference for full time work during the summer and part time year round, but flexible.

Resumes can be submitted to ashley@abbeygardens.ca

Hub Retail Clerk

Working on site in the Food Hub, the Retail Clerk will be responsible for creating and maintaining retail displays, serving retail and cafe customers, managing inventory, and more. The retail clerk will prioritize customer service and quality assurance.

Full time and part time positions are available. Weekend availability required. \$16/hr

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Passed away at the Ross Memorial Hospital, Lindsay on Sunday, March 20, 2022, at the age of 87.

Dear wife of the late Doug Casey. Beloved mother of Ken (Debbie), Debbie (Raymond), Audrey (Nelson) and Keith (Mary). Cherished by her grandchildren Corey (Amanda), Shawn (Amanda), Kelly (Wes), Tim, Danielle (Jeremy), Holly (Dave), Brian, Anthony, Logan and GG to Emma, Lillian, Devon, Jaxen, Mya, Samson, Anson, Chase, Karah, Charlie, Felix and Henry. Sister to Wilf (Joyce) (both deceased), Lloyd (Ruth-deceased), Helen(deceased). Fondly remembered by her many nieces, nephews, family and friends.

Friends are invited to visit the family at the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home Ltd., 127 Bobcaygeon Rd., P.O. Box 427, Minden K0M 2K0 on Tuesday, April 19, 2022 from 11:00 am until the time of the Service to Celebrate Bernice's Life at 12:00 o'clock noon. Reception to follow in the Monk-Cray Family Centre at the funeral home, then an interment will follow at Twelve Mile Lake Cemetery.

Memorial Donations to the Charity of your choice would be appreciated by the family.



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Monday, March 23, 1992

Budget sets new direction for county

by Jay Kerr-Wilson

County council's 1992 budget reflects a vision for the future, says Haliburton County Warden George Simmons.

Simmons made the remarks at last Wednesday's meeting of county council, just prior to the presentation of the budget by Dysart Reeve Chris Hodgson.

The warden said the budget set a new di-

rection for Haliburton County and council is committed to tying future tax increases to the rate of local growth.

Outlining some of the initiatives the county is pursuing, Simmons said the Chamber of Commerce will eventually be self-sufficient and operate on a fee-for-service basis with the county.

In keeping with the tradition of federal finance ministers wearing a new pair of shoes

when they deliver a budget, Simmons was sporting a set of Dutch wooden shoes. He his choice of footwear was appropriate because, "they're made from a natural resource and they're recyclable."

As part of the budget process, council has decided to put the county official plan and the waste management master plan on hold, and merge the economic development office with the Haliburton Highlands Chamber of Com-

merce.

Mark Stagg, who has been serving as both county planner and economic development officer, will continue to be a county employee but his efforts will be directed by the chamber of commerce board of directors.

The chamber has struck a committee to deal with the merger and Hodgson has been chosen by council to negotiate on behalf of the

(more on page 3)



The budget shuffle

Haliburton County Warden George Simmons was kicking up his heels before last Wednesday's county council meeting to celebrate the 4.85 per cent increase in the county levy. Simmons was sporting a pair of Dutch wooden clogs in keeping with the tradition of finance ministers wearing a new pair of shoes on budget day.

Education budget might be delayed

by Susan Grober

It's still up in the air whether the Haliburton County Board Of Education will pass its final budget at this Tuesday's meeting.

At present, the board's expenditures are expected to increase by 6.5 per cent. But the total increase to local taxpayers won't be calculated until the board determines how much money it will receive from the province in grants.

Minister of Education Tony Silipo announced the general legislative grants (GLG) two weeks ago, on Thursday, March 12. The GLG is the formula whereby boards can determine how much money they will receive in grants.

On March 13, Business Administrator Jim Bradley met with the ministry in Toronto.

However, Bradley was on vacation all last week, and hasn't yet applied the formula to determine how much grant money the board will receive from the ministry.

Contacted last Friday, Director of Education Brad Saunders said he doesn't know if Bradley will have time to determine the grant figure by this Tuesday's board meeting.

If Bradley doesn't manage to determine the amount of the grant, the management committee will just present the budget to the full board at a special afternoon meeting and the board will pass the final budget at a later date.

The board's most recent budget deliberations occurred during a management committee meeting on March 4.

At that time, the board discussed ways of cutting the budget by \$300,000, reducing the

(more on page 11)

School accommodation issue

Support for Minden growing

by Jay Kerr-Wilson

Minden council is starting to draw support from other municipalities in its quest to have the school board re-open the school accommodation issue.

So far, the municipal councils of Sherborne, Lutterworth and Glamorgan have joined Minden in asking the school board to reconsider its plan to build an addition to Archie Stouffer Elementary School and establish a junior high school in Haliburton Village, which would be used by students from across the county.

Last Monday, Minden council held a special meeting to deal with the issue. Included in the 30 people who attended were representatives from the three municipalities listed above, members of the Taxpayers Coalition of Haliburton County and Minden residents who oppose the school board's decision.

Parents in Minden do not want to see students in Grades 7 and 8 bused to Haliburton

Village and there have also been concerns about the cost of the board's plan.

Bryan Kernohan and Doug Campbell have studied the issue and developed another option which would see additions to both Archie Stouffer Elementary School in Minden and J.D. Hodgson Elementary School in Haliburton, and would cost \$1.6 million less than the board's chosen option.

Despite the opposition, the school board has resisted requests to re-examine the issue and remains committed to its original decision.

At last Monday's meeting, Minden Reeve Bern Berry said council appreciates the support being shown by residents and other municipalities.

"We feel strongly, as a council, that something has got to be done to get the board of education to look at the issue," he said.

Kernohan and Campbell reviewed the information they've gathered on the school accommodation issue, based on demographics

(more on page 4)

**Former Warden and Glamorgan Reeve
Bob McCausland dies. See story pg. 5.**



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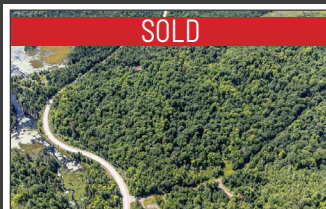
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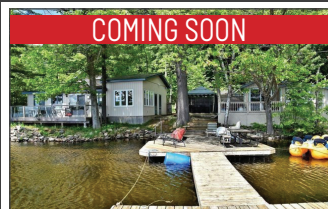
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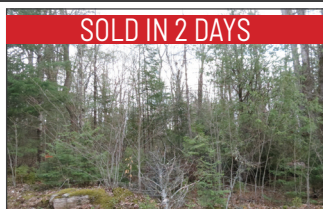
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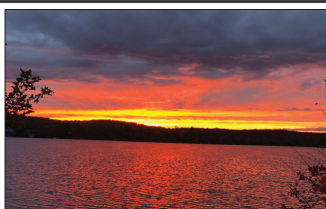
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